

REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the courteous telephone interview granted by the Examiner on April 15, 2004. Pursuant to the interview, claims 1, 3, 13 and 15 have been amended and new claims 19-20 are presented herewith. Reconsideration and allowance of the application as amended are respectfully requested.

A check for \$86.00 is enclosed as the extra independent claim filing fee.

See page 8 of the specification first complete paragraph, for support of the claim amendments.

The invention concerns a game having a spin/stop button which is enabled to cause spinning of at least some of the display segments. Thereafter, some of the display segments automatically stop spinning. After some of the display segments automatically stop spinning, a bet may be placed by the players. Thereafter, the spin/stop button is enabled for a second time. Thereafter, the enabled spin/stop button is depressed to cause other of the display segments to stop spinning.

It can be seen that applicant uses a spin/stop button to initially start a plurality of reels spinning, thereafter some of the reels will automatically stop, while the others will continue spinning, and thereafter the spin/stop button is used to stop at least some of the others that continue to spin. In this manner, after some of the reels automatically stop spinning, and before the spin/stop button is depressed to stop other of the reels from spinning, all of the players have an opportunity to increase the amount wagered above the initial ante by placing a bet in their corresponding bet areas. While the players are betting, some of the display segments will continue to spin until the player

presses the spin/stop button for the second time. The foregoing is novel and unobvious and I would like to discuss how the claims can be put into best form to convey this novel and unobvious method.

The prior art references do not teach the invention.

Takemoto has a number of stop buttons for stopping different reels, and once a particular stop button is pressed, the corresponding reel will stop. Takemoto's stop button will not be enabled twice as in our claims, because to stop any of the other reels in Takemoto a different stop button must be pressed.

Further, Takemoto has a separate start switch 108 and a plurality of game stop switches 109. Each of the stop switches 109 corresponds to a column of rotating indicia. There is no switch that controls both starting and stopping of rotation. There is no disclosure of a stop switch that is anything other than for control of a single rotating reel.

Okada discloses a single stop button for stopping three reels, one at a time, sequentially after each other. Thus if you push the stop button once it will stop the first reel. If you push the stop button again it will then stop the second reel. If you push the stop button again, it will then stop the third reel. It effectively is acting as a single-reel stop button similar to the stop buttons of Takemoto except that the single stop button of Okada acts sequentially on each rotating reel. Further, Okada's stop buttons do not have anything to do with starting of rotation. In Okada, in order to start rotation you have to pull an operating handle.

Lowden does not teach a stop button. Lowden only teaches a spin button. Each player has a spin button. Each player's spin button is enabled by the dealer so that the

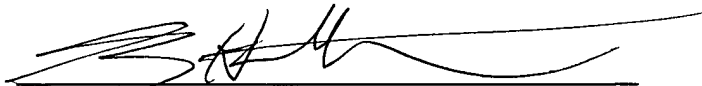
player can depress his button to spin the reels. Each player's spin button individually spins the reels, but only one spin button can operate at a time. As stated above, there is simply no stop button taught by Lowden.

Hydel is not relevant because Hydel simply teaches a button having multiple functionalities within a game. Hydel does not teach a start/stop button as claimed but only teaches a button is used in a machine that contains a number of games, particularly a hold/cancel button.

None of the prior art references, whether taken singly or in combination with each other, teach applicant's novel method including using a start/stop button after automatic stopping of some of the reels. None of the prior art references, whether taken singly or in combination with each other, teach applicant's novel method as claimed including enabling the start/stop button after automatic stopping of some of the reels.

In view of the foregoing it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
SEYFARTH SHAW LLP

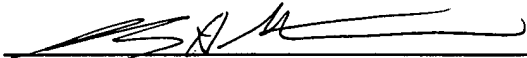


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Registered Attorney for Applicant

Date: April 20, 2004